

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims.

Listing of Claims:

1-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus for controlling traffic over a network, comprising:

a switching processor, including a plurality of ports connectable to a network line and packet counter registers for storing counting information on packets ingressed and egressed through said plurality of ports and for controlling ingress and egress packet traffic volume for each of said plurality of ports in response to an input traffic control command; and

a controller for registering traffic volume for each of said plurality of ports in an internal register, said traffic volume being entered by a user through a data input unit as a user value, and for comparing ~~[[a]]the~~ user value for each of said plurality of ports with a value in a respective one of said packet counter registers for said each port so as to output said input traffic control command for said each port to said switching processor.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said input traffic control command is a control command that enables said packets ingressed or egressed through said each port to be queued, dropped, or paused.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus for controlling traffic over a network, comprising:

a switching processor, including a plurality of ports connectable to a network line and a packet counter register for storing counting information on packets ingressed and/or egressed through said plurality of ports and for controlling ingress and/or egress packet traffic volume for said plurality of ports in response to an input traffic control command; and

a controller for registering traffic volume for said plurality of ports in an internal register, said traffic volume being entered by a user through a data input unit as a user value, and for comparing ~~[[a]]~~the user value for said plurality of ports with a value in a respective one of said packet counter registers for said plurality of ports so as to output said input traffic control command for said plurality of ports to said switching processor.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said ingress and/or egress traffic volume is controlled via a token bucket, which is shared between the ports of said plurality of ports.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said input traffic control command is a control command that enables said packets ingressed or egressed through said each port to be queued, dropped, or paused.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said input traffic control command is a control command that enables said packets ingressed or egressed through said each port to be queued, dropped, or paused.

14. (Previously presented) A method for controlling a traffic volume ingressed or egressed via a port or a plurality of ports of a switching processor,:

entering a user value, by a user through a data input unit, for a maximum traffic volume;

comparing said user value with a respective value for said traffic volume, said respective value being written in a packet counter register; and

issuing a traffic control command to said switching processor.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said traffic volume relates to a plurality of ports and said traffic volume is controlled via a token bucket, which is shared between the ports of said plurality of ports.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein a packet is dropped by setting the frame size parameter smaller than the minimum Ethernet frame size.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein a packet is dropped by setting the frame size parameter smaller than the minimum Ethernet frame size.